

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 05265 211907Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /036 W
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R 211822Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9011

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 5265

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSING TO SEND
TRIAL OBSERVERS TO PARAGUAY

REF: A. STATE 306616 B. ASUNCION 5241

1. PARA 2 REF A WAS BADLY GARBLED IN TRANSMISSION AND EMBASSY THEREFORE DID NOT UNDERSTAND OR COMMENT IN ITS REPLY (REF B) ON MS. COHEN'S INQUIRY REGARDING AN EMBASSY OBSERVER AT THE TRIALS OF FRIENDSHIP MISSION PERSONNEL.

2. AS NOTED REF B, CRIMINAL TRIALS IN PARAGUAY ARE USUALLY LENGTHY PROCEEDINGS, SOMETIMES LASTING FOR YEARS, AND ARE FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. THE LOCAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURES ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN. MOST OF THE TESTIMONY AND ARGUMENTS OF THE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE ARE SUBMITTED TO THE JUDGE IN WRITTEN FORM FOR HIS CONSIDERATION IN DECIDING THE CASE (THERE IS NO JURY SYSTEM). THUS THE "TRIAL" CONSISTS MAINLY OF PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS. THE LACK OF CONTINUITY IN THE PROCEEDINGS AND THEIR PROLONGED DURATION, AND THE FACT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TO HEAR OR SEE, WOULD OBVIOUSLY POSE DIFFICULTIES FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER.

3. FYI. THE EMBASSY IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF
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MONITORING THE TRIALS OF THE FRIENDSHIP MISSION PERSONNEL IF WE DETERMINE THAT IT WOULD BE OF SOME UTILITY IN LIGHT OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED.
BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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